

City of Frederick gains most in new residents, 2017 to 2018

City of Gaithersburg's population increases 14.0 percent between 2010 and 2018, largest eight-year change.

2018 municipal population growth and rankings in Maryland

Census estimates show that, in 2018, the state of Maryland had a population of 6,042,718. Maryland's municipalities (not including Baltimore City) contributed 15.5 percent to the state total or about 934,800 residents. Baltimore City contributed 9.9 percent to the state total or about 602,500 residents. Most Marylanders (74.6 percent), however, live in unincorporated areas of the state.

The top 5 municipalities ranked by 2018 population, not including Baltimore City, were City of Frederick (72,146), Gaithersburg (68,289), Rockville (68,268), Bowie (58,682), and Hagerstown (40,205).

Population Growth, 2010 -2018

The incorporated places with the largest change in population between 2010 and 2018 were Gaithersburg (+8,386), Rockville (+7,013), Frederick (+6,859), Bowie (+3,347) and Salisbury (+2,579). Over the last eight years, it is the smaller towns that have experienced the largest percentage growth in population: Leonardtown in St. Mary's County (26.9%) and Port Tobacco in Charles County (15.4%). Gaithersburg increased 14.0 percent followed by Centreville in Queen Anne's County at 13.0 percent and Rockville at 11.4 percent.

Frederick City's population has increased 10.5 percent since 2010, and 1.5 percent in the last year. This growth is due in part to in-migration. The latest [migration data](#) show that Frederick County has benefitted most from Montgomery County residents relocating to exurban Frederick County and from international migrants settling in the County. While Pennsylvanians are also moving into the County, there is more out-migration of Frederick County residents to Pennsylvania.

Population Growth, 2017 -2018

Municipalities which added the largest number of residents in the last year were Frederick City (+1,094), Rockville (+373), Gaithersburg (+258), Havre de Grace in Harford County (+229), and Berlin in Worcester County (+193). Incorporated places which exhibited significant percentage growth from 2017 to 2018 were Berlin (4.2%), Keedysville in Washington County (3.4%), Rosemont Village (2.6%), Walkersville (2.1%), and Woodsboro (2.1%), all in Frederick County.

Over a third of incorporated places (63 out of 161) in the state have experienced slow growth in the 2017-2018 period: less than 1.1 percent growth. Twenty-one places showed no growth and 57 places had negative growth or lost population.

Municipal population is concentrated in the central part of the state, primarily in the suburban Washington region: Montgomery and Frederick counties. In the suburban Washington region, about 42 percent of Frederick County residents live in the jurisdiction's municipalities compared to 16.6 percent in Montgomery County and 27 percent in Prince George's. The other jurisdictions where most residents live in the incorporated portion include Allegany (44.8%) and Talbot (52.0%).

Baltimore City is unique in that it is treated not just as a city but also as a county. This characteristic has been defined by the Census Bureau as an Independent City. Other Independent City governments include St. Louis city and Carson City NV.

Baltimore City continues to lose population. In April 2010, Census estimates show the City's population at 620,862 and by 2018 population had fallen to 602,495. Population loss accelerated in the last three years. Between 2015 and 2018, Baltimore City lost 19,655 residents.

2010-2018 municipal growth by population size in the United States

Nationally, population growth is found in the South and West. This trend has played out in terms of municipal growth as well. Texas has the most fast-growing cities.

Nine municipalities in the U.S. had populations of one million or more in April 2010. Among these, between 2010 and 2018, the top 3 fast-growing cities were San Antonio TX (15.5%), Phoenix AZ (14.8%), and Dallas TX (12.3%).

Twenty-three municipalities in the U.S. had a 2010 population between 999,999 and 500,000. Since 2010, the top 6 fast growing cities in this size category were Seattle WA (22.4%), Austin TX (20.2%), Fort Worth TX (20.2%), Denver CO (19.5%), Charlotte NC (18.6%), and Washington DC (16.7%).

Forty-one municipalities had a 2010 population less than 500,000 but more than 249,999. In this size category, the top 5 fast growing cities were Henderson NV (20.4%), Miami FL (17.9%), Tampa FL (17.0%), Atlanta GA (16.7%), and Aurora CO (15.2%).

In 2010, 354 municipalities had a population less than 250,000 but more 74,999. The top 3 fast-growing cities in this size category were McKinney TX (46.1%), Meridian ID (38.8%), and Irvine CA (33.3%).

In 2010, there were 1,012 small-sized cities— incorporated places with population less than 75,000 but more than 24,999. The top 3 fast-growing small-sized cities were all in Texas with Leander City showing the largest percent increase at 105.8 percent over the last eight years. About 22 percent of all small-sized municipalities (227) either lost population or showed no growth.

For more information about the 2018 Estimates, see the [Census Bureau's Population and Housing Unit Estimates Special Tabulation](#)

Methodology

To produce the annual population estimates for subcounty areas including incorporated places, the Census Bureau's Population and Housing Unit Estimates program employs a distributive housing unit methodology. First, a count of housing units—based mainly on building permit data from construction reports. Second, the housing unit estimate is then multiplied by the 2010 census occupancy rate to get the estimated number of occupied housing units and then multiplied by the 2010 Census persons per household. Lastly, the household population subtotal is controlled to the previously estimated countywide household population total.